

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10080 211225Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SY-10 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 FBO-01

USSS-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 CU-04 /094 W

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R 210956Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 10080

INFO FOR ISA/AUSTIN, IOA/SP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION AT AMERICAN CENTER IN PESHAWAR

REF: ISLAMABAD 9795, 9876

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MESSAGE FROM USIS PESHAWAR REPORTING FURTHER STUDENT DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING PUBLICATION BY TIME MAGAZINE OF PICTURE OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD:

2. AROUND 800 STUDENTS OF ISLAMIA COLLEGE AND 150/200 FROM CANTONMENT COLLEGE STAGED A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF AMERICAN CENTER ON NOVEMBER 14 PROTESTING RECENT PUBLICATION OF PICTURE OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD BY TIME MAGAZINE (NOVEMBER 5 ISSUE). THIS WAS THIRD DAY OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HERE. FOLLOWING ATTACK ON CENTER NOVEMBER 12, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION HAD MOBILIZED LARGE POLICE FORCE (ABOUT 40) TO FORESTALL FURTHER DAMAGE TO CENTER. WHILE PROCESSION MOVED TOWARD CENTER, GROUP OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WAITED IN DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, INCLUDING DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, CITY MAGISTRATE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, AND SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10080 211225Z

OF POLICE.

3. PRINCIPAL OF ISLAMIA COLLEGE ALONG WITH DOZEN OF HIS FACULTY ALSO ARRIVED AT CENTER WELL BEFORE PROCESSION. PROCESSIONISTS ARRIVED ALL WEARING BLACK "SHERWANIS" (LONG COATS), CHANTING SLOGANS "DOWN WITH AMERICAN DOGS", "DOWN WITH NIXON", ETC. BEFORE COMING TO CENTER, STUDENTS WERE ADDRESSED IN SMALL NEARBY SQUARE BY THEIR LEADERS, WHO CALLED UPON GOP TO BAN ENTRY OF TIME MAGAZINE INTO COUNTRY. AFTER STUDENTS REACHED CENTER THE PRESIDENT OF KHYBER UNION ADDRESSED THEM AGAIN SAYING, "WE HAVE COME HERE TO PROTEST IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER". TOGETHER WITH THE STUDENT PRESIDENT OF CANTONMENT COLLEGE HE HANDED CENTER DIRECTOR OTE OF PROTEST WHICH DENOUNCED PUBLICATION OF PROPHET'S PICTURE AS "A WILLFUL SACRI-LEGIOUS ACT" AND CONDEMNED TIME MAGAZINE FOR IT. NOTE DEMANDED THAT GOP BAN IMPORT OF TIME MAGAZINE "FOREVER" AND SAID THAT PROTESTERS WISHED TO "INFORM THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN OF OUR SENTIMENTS FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA".

4. DIRECTOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO STUDENT LEADERS ROLE OF FREE PRESS IN US AND USG'S "HANDS OFF" POLICY TOWARDS CONTROLLING PRESS. LATER HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE OFFICIALS FOR THEIR PREPAREDNESS.

5. TODAY NOVEMBER 15 WE HAVE 21 POLICEMEN GUARDING THE CENTER.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: PESHAWAR DEMONSTRATION HAVE APPARENTLY RUN THEIR COURSE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ANY SINCE NOVEMBER 14.
SOBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, MAGAZINES, POLICE FORCES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, INFORMATION CENTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA10080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731120/aaaaaori.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ISLAMABAD 9795, 9876
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATION AT AMERICAN CENTER IN PESHAWAR
TAGS: PINS, PK, TIME MAGAZINE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005